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J. H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31ST. DECEMBER, 1947

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the
Borough of Clitheroe.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Fourth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1947, which in accordance with suggestions of the Ministry of Health is again in an abbreviated form.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOSEPH H. FAIRWEATHER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFFMEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

JOSEPH H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (PART-TIME)

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE OFFICER

CYRIL ROYLE, M.B., CH.B. (PART-TIME)

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

EDWARD COATES, A.R.S.I.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

JAMES BOLTON.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE

ELSA W. BATES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION - 10,950.

During the year, 240 Live Births were registered (124 Male and 116 Female) giving a BIRTH RATE for 1947 of 21.9 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 5.7 above that of 1946 and an increase of 5.8 on the average for the previous five years (1942-1946). This is the highest number of births registered in the Borough since 1921.

Six Stillbirths (3 male and 3 female) were registered, giving a STILL BIRTH RATE of 24 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, a decrease of 24 per 1,000 on 1946.

No Maternal Deaths were reported during the year.

During the same period, 156 Deaths were registered (79 Male and 77 Female) giving a DEATH RATE of 14.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, a figure which is 0.3 per 1,000 below that of 1946 and 0.1 above the previous five year's average.

The Deaths included 2 from Pneumonia; 9 from Bronchitis; 2 from Tuberculosis; 17 from Cancer; 62 from Organic Heart Disease; 12 from Nephritis; 1 from Influenza, 1 from Measles and 1 from Whooping Cough.

There were 6 Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age) during the year, giving an INFANT MORTALITY RATE of 25 per 1,000 live births registered, an increase of 9 on the figure for 1946, but a decrease of 7 on the average for the previous five years.

STILL BIRTHS

As mentioned previously, six Still Births occurred during the year, giving a Rate of 24 per 1,000 total (live and still) births a decrease on the previous year.

All the children were legitimate. Full enquiries were made and it was found that in all cases there had been adequate medical and nursing attention to confinement.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

253 cases of Notifiable Diseases were reported during the year, an increase of 177 cases on the previous year. This increase was due to the incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough, some 169 cases of the former and 58 of the latter being notified during the year. One death was attributable to each of these diseases.

Only 3 cases of Pneumonia were reported, as against 18 in 1946, with 2 deaths.

There were 5 cases of Scarlet Fever during year, as compared with 17 in 1946, and again no deaths were reported.

A female, aged 20 years, admitted to Coplow View from the Clitheroe Rural area in October, was found to be suffering from Poliomyelitis and was removed to Fazackerley Hospital, Liverpool.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during 1947. The Immunisation Campaign was continued during the year, and there was again a gratifying response on the part of parents.

During the year under review, 147 children were immunised against Diphtheria, and in addition, 89 re-inforcing injections were given.

64% of the child population under 5 years of age and 97% of children between five and fifteen years have been given protection up to the 31st December, 1947.

The arrangements for the hospitalisation of infectious cases remain as in previous years.

SCABIES.

Only one case of this disease was found in school children during the year, and this received the necessary treatment at the School Clinic.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

There is a Nursing Association in the town, employing three Nurse Midwives

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held weekly (Tuesday) in rooms at the Castle House, the Maternity and Child Welfare Officer, Dr. Cyril Royle, attending these Sessions for consultations with mothers.

The Abnormal Midwifery and Ante Natal Services in the Borough were re-organised during 1946 and have continued satisfactory during the present year.

A Midwives Clinic, at which cases are booked by midwives and blood pressure, urine tests, etc. carried out, is held weekly (Thursday at 2 p.m.) in rooms at the Congregational School, Moor Lane, Clitheroe. At this Clinic, a trained Physiotherapist is also in attendance and supervises an Exercise Class for expectant mothers.

The Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Mr. R. M. Corbet, F.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.P.I., F.R.C.S.I. of Preston Royal Infirmary, attends the Ante-Natal Clinic on the second Thursday of each month for pre-natal examinations and also post-natal examination of cases following hospital confinements.

Suitable cases are referred by Mr. Corbet to Preston Royal Infirmary under an arrangement with the Local Authority.

There is also an agreement under the Scheme that in the event of an emergency, in which it is felt that the patient is not fit to travel to Preston Infirmary, Mr. Corbet will visit Clitheroe to deal with the emergency, or to advise.

Facilities are available also for the Obstetrician to bring out blood from Preston in such severe cases of Post-partum Haemorrhage as are judged too ill to be moved.

The arrangement continues with the Lancashire County Authority whereby expectant mothers from the Clitheroe Rural District may attend the Midwives Clinic and the Consultant Clinic. Mothers from the Bowland Rural District, if they so desire, may attend the Ante Natal Exercise Class.

During 1947, a considerable number of midwifery cases have been admitted to the Maternity Ward of the Coplow View Institution, Clitheroe. As during recent years, considerable difficulty has again been experienced in finding accommodation for maternity cases within reasonable distance of the patients' homes.

LABORATORY WORK.

This shows no change on previous years, specimens being examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

This is from neighbouring upland sources and is of a high degree of purity and adequate at the source.

The storage capacity of the existing reservoirs, however, is not considered as sufficient, and the Authority has given full consideration to the construction of a new Impounding Reservoir to give the additional storage. Pending the construction of this reservoir, as a short term policy, additional water will probably be obtained from an artesian source, discovered during boring operations to fix the site of the dam for the new reservoir.

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of the town's water supply are made monthly with satisfactory results.

All houses in the Borough are supplied from public mains direct, with one exception, this an old house on the extreme north boundary of the Borough which is supplied from a well.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

No change during the year.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

There still remain in the Borough 13 Pail Closets and some 1,371 Slopwater or "Tippler" Closets.

The prevalent shortages of materials and man-power have rendered impossible the proposed Conversion Scheme to deal with this obsolete accommodation.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION, ETC.

The following is a summary of the work done in the removal of House Refuse (excluding Salvage loads) during the year :-

1.	House and Shop Refuse removed to Destructor....	2,246 loads.
2.	Offal removed from Government Slaughterhouse...	159 loads.
3.	Fish and Vegetable Offal removed from Trade Premises and Market.....	262 loads.
4.	Nightsoil from Pail Closets.....	52 loads.
		<u>2,719 loads.</u>

The total weight of House and Shop Refuse (2246 loads) amounted to 2883 tons 9 cwts 0 qrs.

A Weekly collection period for all household refuse is aimed at and this has been fairly well adhered to throughout the year. Special attention is given to the collection of all forms of Salvage including Kitchen Waste - this latter being collected from communal bins three times weekly.

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS.

The following shows the total weight of Salvage disposed of and the income derived therefrom during year ended 31st December, 1947

	T.	C.	Q.	LBS.	£	:	S	:	D.
Waste Paper (all grades) .49	7	0	:	0	314	:	12	:	0
Ferrous Metals.. 11	1	3	:	0	11	:	1	:	9.
Baled Destructor Tins... 47	5	1	:	0	74	:	18	:	3.
Non-Ferrous Metals.....	11	0	:	6	7	:	7	:	11.
Textiles..... 1	0	3	:	13	8	:	17	:	6.
Household Bones.....	9	2	:	10	1	:	1	:	9.
Bottles and Jars..... 6	8	3	:	0	16	:	18	:	0.
Kitchen Waste. 197	18	2	:	0	296	:	17	:	5.
	314	2	:	3 : 1	£ 731	:	14	:	7.

FACTORIES AND SHOPS.

Regular inspection of Factory premises and Shops was carried out by the Public Health Staff and it was found necessary to issue notices for several minor defects only during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.MILK SUPPLY

There are some twenty-five Dairy Farms on the Register with accommodation for approximately 400 cattle. The standard of cleanliness and methods of milk production has been found, as a result of frequent inspections, to be generally satisfactory.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, five dealers are distributing T.T. Milk, three "Accredited" Milk, and two "Pasteurised" Milk.

BAKEHOUSES.

These remain as in previous reports. As a result of frequent inspection and contact with employers and employees in the baking trade, the standard of cleanliness has been well maintained during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Public Abattoir is still used as a Government Centre for the distribution of meat in the area covered by the Clitheroe Borough and the Clitheroe and Bowland Rural Districts, and the centralised slaughter of animals for food has facilitated the work of meat inspection.

Food Shops and Market Stalls have also been frequently visited during the year under review.

The following shows the amount of food condemned and removed from the Food Supply during the year :-

MEAT

46 Beast Carcases	16,067 lbs.	9 Calf Carcases	398 lbs
Carcase Parts	2,095 lbs.	Carcase Parts	29 lbs
50 Sets of Offal	2,888 lbs.	10 Heads and Plucks	98 lbs
Liver Trimmings	7,993 lbs.	56 Sheep Carcases	1,949 lbs
10 Heads and Tongues	266 lbs.	Carcase Parts	118 lbs
10 Hearts	39 lbs	1084 Sheep Livers	1,981 lbs
29 Skirts	56 lbs.	6 Plucks	18 lbs
119 Lights and 54 Melts	1,271 lbs.	1 Head	4 lbs
Udder	758 lbs.	Mutton Fat	13 lbs
Beef Fat	972 lbs.	1 Pig Head	21 lbs
5 Tails	10 lbs.	1 Pig Pluck	11 lbs
Frozen Beef	236 lbs.	6 Lights	24 lbs

OTHER FOODS

Canned Corned Beef 582 lbs; Meat 6 tins; Fruit 14 tins; Jam 12 tins; Milk 44 tins; Fish 1 tin; Soup 1 tin; Vegetables 18 tins. Flour 93 lbs; Peas $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs; Barley $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs; Strawberries 15 lbs; Cheese 82 lbs; Ham 6 lbs; Chocolate 14 ozs; 1 pkt. Dried Egg.

PROMOTION OF CLEANLINESS AND GOOD HABITS AND THE ELIMINATION OF VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

There has been no widespread lice infestation in the Borough so that no extensive campaign to combat lousiness has been called for.

The Department's Nurse has again carried out regular cleanliness inspections in the Schools, and the standard was found to be high. Only in one or two cases was it found necessary to issue instructions to parents.

Talks on Personal Hygiene and the Formation of Good Habits regarding cleanliness are given by the Teachers in the Schools.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employs one full-time Rodent Operator to carry out the work of disinfection under the direction of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The town is divided into eight sections and regular tours of inspection of premises within these sections are carried out by the Operator, complete records being kept of all infestations and treatments carried out.

During the year 27 premises were found to be rat infested and the necessary treatment was carried out with a resultant kill of 1,000 rats. Block treatments of premises were carried out in several instances. Eight sets of premises were also treated for infestation by mice.

Special attention was again given to the Sewers in the Borough Area, and two Maintenance treatments were carried out.

VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Sanitary Inspectors.

House to House Inspections.....	48
House to House Re-Inspections.....	8
Other House Inspections.....	262
Factory Inspections (including Bakehouses)	280
Dairy Farm Inspections.....	210
Visits to Government Slaughterhouse.....	524
Visits to Food Shops and Stalls.....	225
Visits to Inhabited Vans (Fairground).....	12
Visits to Infected Houses.....	20
Visits re. Work in Progress.....	42
Miscellaneous Visits re. Complaints, etc..	876
Houses Disinfected.....	6

Health Visitor.

Primary Visits to Infants under 1 year....	219
Second Visits to Infants under 1 year....	437
Visits to Children 1 to 5 years.....	747
Visits to Expectant Mothers.....	65
Visits re. Stillbirths.....	5
Miscellaneous Visits.....	86

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The present austerity conditions have held up work on the removal of blocks of unsatisfactory property and the improvement of other property. Clitheroe has still a considerable number of back-to-back houses which call for conversion to through houses, or demolition. Shortage of materials still holds up schemes for the re-conditioning of existing dwelling houses, and only the most serious can be given attention.

Clitheroe, like most towns, experiences an acute shortage of housing accommodation for all classes of the population and the Authority is making every endeavour to accelerate it's Housing Programme.

During the year under review, 42 traditional permanent houses were completed on the Henthorn Road and Conway Avenue Sites, which are to hold some 32 houses. A scheme for the erection of a

further 28 houses on the Honthorn Road Site was under consideration at the end of the year.

In addition, on the Tower Hill Site, where 54 B.I.S.F. Steel houses are to be erected, 13 were already completed at the end of the year.

In July, Site works were commenced on the Wilkin Street Site where it is proposed to erect 42 Permanent Pre-fabricated houses of the 'Orlit' type .

OVERCROWDING.

The shortage of housing accommodation and the occupation by more than one family of the smaller dwelling houses has undoubtedly resulted in some overcrowding, but without a special survey of all working class property it is well-nigh impossible to give an accurate estimate of the number of overcrowded dwellings.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Number of Houses erected during the year.....	55
1a Number of Houses in course of erection at end of year..	81
2. Number of Houses Inspected for Housing Defects.....	48
3. Number of Inspections made for this purpose.....	56
4. Number of Houses found to be unfit for habitation.....	Nil.
5. Number of Houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.....	46
6. Number of Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or Officers.....	34
7. Number of dwellings in respect of which action was taken under Statutory Powers under Public Health and Housing Acts.....	Nil.
8. Number of Overcrowding cases dealt with.....	Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1947 (CIVILIANS ONLY)

Disease.	At all Ages	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over	To Hosp Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	5	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	169	8	16	23	19	32	69	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	58	4	4	8	12	8	20	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	2
Acute Polionyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	2	-	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	7	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	253	13	20	32	31	42	92	2	1	9	4	5	2	6

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1947.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	MALE.	FEMALE	TOTAL.
All Causes - Certified Uncertified.	79.	77	156.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.....	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	1	-	1
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	-	2	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	-	-	-
Influenza.....	1	-	1
Measles.....	-	1	1
Acute Encephalitis.....	-	-	-
Premature Birth, Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries.....	3	2	5
Cancer (all forms).....	9	8	17
Diabetes.....	-	1	1
Heart Disease.....	33	29	62
Other Diseases of Circulatory System.....	4	2	6
Bronchitis.....	3	6	9
Pneumonia.....	1	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....	2	-	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)....	-	-	-
Appendicitis.....	1	-	1
Nephritis.....	4	8	12
Puerperal Sepsis.....	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes.....	-	-	-
Suicide.....	-	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents.....	-	-	-
Other Violent Causes.....	1	3	4
All Other Causes.....	16	13	29
TOTALS.....	79	77	156

